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# Goddard Auto Tech Center

## *NEWSLETTER*

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Volume I, No. 1

A Periodic Publication of GATC

November 1998

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### GENERAL MEETING COMING SOON

There will be a general membership meeting on **Thursday, December 3rd at 4:30 pm at the Garage**. The meeting will discuss pressing issues, and adjourn in about 60 minutes. Here is the agenda:

- 1- Pizza
- 2- Call for quorum, 25%, 2 Officers + Absentee Votes
- 3- Treasurer's report and approval
- 4- Approval of the amendments to the bylaws.
- 5- Need For Membership Drive
- 6- Open discussion of other issues.
- 7- Adjournment

### 1998 ELECTION RESULTS

GATC held its 1998 election on July 21, 1998 where a new President, Vice President, and Treasurer were elected. The names of all officers are listed on the last page of this Newsletter and the complete report of the Election Committee can be found on the Club's new Internet Home page.

### AUTO CLUB'S HOME PAGE

One of our new members, Mr. Joseph Schepis, has enthusiastically designed and implemented a new Club Home

page with a URL address of <<http://mscweb.gsfc.nasa.gov/gatc/>>. This home page features a forum where you may communicate with the membership. Important announcements such as meeting times and location as well as discount auto part information and useful links are available at our website. All members are encouraged to visit this page and register their comments. Any suggestions and your favorite automotive links will be welcomed.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

In order to lift Club suspension, previous Club Officers submitted an apology letter to Goddard management on November 7, 1997, which contained a promise to change our bylaws. These amendments were actually proposed by the membership to satisfy the condition for lifting the suspension. Although our bylaws need to be updated to clarify many other ambiguities, we need to honor our commitment and adopt the following amendments right away. Ratification of these amendments is one of the main topics of business in the next meeting. If you can not attend the next meeting, please mail your signed yes/no absentee vote concerning these amendments to the Secretary of the Club before the meeting. The address is on the absentee ballot. Here is the complete text of the proposed amendments.

[1- It is proposed that Article II, Section 2 of the by-laws (The

Secretary shall draft and distribute Club correspondence and shall retain and manage the archives ...) shall be revised to read: "The Secretary shall have the duty to distribute Club correspondence to the membership and shall retain and manage the archives ..."

2- It is also proposed that a new section, Section 5, shall be added under Article II of the by-laws which will state: "The Club Executive Council constitutes the Editorial Board of the Club's Newsletter. The Newsletter shall reflect factual news items relevant to the Club and its membership. Editorial articles are permitted but no member shall have the privilege to get more than one article printed in a single issue. Editorial articles (excluding news items) shall not be longer than one normal printed page (8 1/2 X 11 inch). The Editorial Board shall be collectively responsible to make sure that the Newsletter will not violate legal, ethical, and professional values held by the Goddard community. Articles and editorials appearing in the Club Newsletter shall have the vote of the majority of the Editorial Board. It shall be clear that the above restrictions should not be interpreted as illegal censorship and shall not be used as an instrument of suppression of voices of dissent by the Editorial Board.]

### CLUB'S FINANCIAL STATUS

At the present time, over 100 members have renewed, yet our checking account balance is under one thousand dollars. The reason for this is that last year's expenses have been paid with this year's funds and our membership shrank to a low of 126 last year compared with a high of 180 members in previous years. In addition, we have been carrying a GEWA interest free three year loan on the bay doors of which the last payment of \$1828 is due in March '99. Details will be presented during the Treasurer's report in the next General Meeting.

Needless to say, we are in a tight spot financially. The best solution perhaps is for us to increase the number of our members. We need to contact members who have let their memberships lapse and invite them back to the Club. We also need to advertise and attract brand new members as well.

## **TIRE BALANCER BACK IN SERVICE**

You may have noticed that the tire balancer has been missing from the Garage for several months. The machine was sent back to the manufacturer for repair, but did not balance tires accurately after it was returned to us. It was sent back a second time for repair and has been recently returned to us and reinstalled. It is now functioning properly.

A quick check for accuracy can be done by initially balancing a tire, then remounting the wheel to the balancer spindle with the wheel rotated 180 degrees on the spindle. Then recheck the balance. Ideally, the tire should still be balanced requiring 0.0 ounces, but it is normal for the balancer to call for 0.25 ounces.

## **A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Fellow Club Members:

I would like to thank the outgoing President, Mr. Dennis Olivares for all the good things he has done for this

Club over many years. I expect that he will continue to be a valuable member of our organization.

We need to address many important issues in order to improve our Club. We have some financial problems but we will try to resolve them soon. I have made several requests for grants from GEWA. One request is for items for our recycling center so as to maintain compliance with regulations. I have also requested a GEWA grant to implement security measures which includes installation of video cameras so that we can protect our tools and equipment.

I would like every member to get involved, share ideas, and lend a hand to improve the Club. Please bring any issue to me which you feel deserves my attention and feel free to bring the issue to the next general meeting if you are not satisfied with my handling of it. I will try to be helpful to every Club member to the extent that is humanly possible.

*Ken Blumenstock*

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### **Goddard Auto Tech Center Officers**

President: Ken Blumenstock      6-4268

Treasurer: Joseph Generie      6-7930

Vice President: Larry Phillips      6-6035

Facilities Chairman: Frank Shelton, Jr. (301) 445 0050

Secretary: Frank DeMare      (301) 262-0354

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## **Goddard Auto Tech Center Newsletter**

NASA's GSFC, Code 030.4; Building 95, Greenbelt MD 20771, (301) 286-4268

Comments about this issue and articles to GATC Newsletter should be sent to the above address or to the GATC President

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